



## HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

### RANKING MEMBER ROSA DeLAURO

## House Republican Default & Cuts Bill Would Hurt Veterans

Speaker McCarthy intends to bring his plan to **default on our debt** to the floor of the House of Representatives this week for a vote. Speaker McCarthy's bill would delay a catastrophic default for **less than a year** on the condition that Congress agree to **10 years of drastic cuts and caps** to the annual appropriations Act investments that families and veterans depend on.

### Clawing Back \$2 Billion from Veterans Programs

Not only does this bill do nothing to protect veterans' programs from these devastating cuts over the next decade, it also **immediately rescinds \$2 billion in funding to support veterans**—putting veterans' health and wellbeing at immediate risk by delaying access to health care and benefits they have earned.

- Clawing back this funding would leave the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) underfunded by \$2 billion, putting veterans' healthcare in jeopardy.
- Clawing back billions in funding that supports veterans medical care would dramatically limit the VA's ability to provide healthcare services both within and outside of VA.
- Clawing back this funding would also curtail the improvements that VA has made on whittling down the backlog of veterans' claims and appeals that grew because of the pandemic. This claw back all but guarantees longer waits for claims and appeals.

### Drastic Cuts to Annual Discretionary Investments for Veterans

House Republicans' promises to safeguard funding for veterans' care is all talk and no action. Nothing in the bill protects funding for veterans, subjecting them to the same threat to cut resources for their programs by at least 22 percent, and all the [devastating impacts](#) that would flow therefrom. Beyond the bill's threats to funding at the VA, the bill would require enormous reductions to other [programs that veterans depend on](#) including housing support for 50,000 veterans through Housing Choice Vouchers, and job training and other supports to 4,200 veterans suffering from homelessness.

### Underfunding the Costs of War Toxic Exposures Fund

Many Republicans have pledged to further cut veterans programs by underfunding the VA's request of **\$20 billion for the Costs of War Toxic Exposures Fund** established by the overwhelmingly bipartisan PACT Act. This would directly undermine the PACT Act's promises to veterans who have been exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

House Republicans intend to underfund the Costs of War Toxic Exposures Fund in order to force those costs under the discretionary cap in service of seeking even steeper cuts to the nondefense programs that veterans depend on, such as **such as Housing Choice Vouchers, SNAP, and job training**.